



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2008
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**CONVICTED METH TRAFFICKER SENTENCED TO SIX YEARS
AND SIX MONTHS FOR MANUFACTURING METHAMPHETAMINE**

– Also admits to possessing a Hi-Point, Model C, 9 mm semi-automatic pistol

OWENSBORO, KY - Ryan J. Payne, age 24, of 4690 Free Silver Road, Philpot, Kentucky was sentenced to 6 years and 6 months imprisonment in United States District Court, Owensboro, Kentucky, for manufacturing methamphetamine and being a felon in possession of a firearm, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today.

Joseph H. McKinley, Jr., Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced Payne to 4 years supervised release following incarceration. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

Payne pled guilty to the charges on January 14, 2008, admitting that on or about April 7, 2005, he possessed List I chemicals (pseudoephedrine), materials and instruments (anhydrous ammonia filters and lithium strips) with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine. He also pled guilty to being a felon in possession of and possessing a Hi-Point Model C, 9mm semi-automatic pistol in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime.

On April 7, 2005, a methamphetamine laboratory was discovered on the second floor of a barn located on a farm owned by another person in Whitesville, Kentucky. Payne was

discovered hiding in the loft of the barn. When the owner of the farm approached Payne, he jumped from behind a tank that was in the loft of the barn and ran out of the barn into a field. Detectives seized materials needed to manufacture methamphetamine, such as pseudoephedrine pills, digital scale, AA lithium batteries, coffee filters, glass containers, Liquid Fire, white powder and other materials and chemicals needed to manufacture methamphetamine. Additionally, night vision goggles and a Hi-Point Model C .9mm semi-automatic pistol with a magazine containing eight rounds of ammunition were seized.

Payne was previously convicted of facilitation to manufacture methamphetamine in 2003 when he was 18 years old. In addition, he has previous misdemeanor convictions for criminal mischief in 2003 and possession of marijuana in 2004.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert J. Kilmartin. The Bowling Green Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conducted the investigation in partnership with the Audubon Area Gun Task Force, as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

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